HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION February 29th, 2012, 4:30p.m. Council Chambers

PRESENT	ABSENT	
Andrae Marak	Shiva Rallapalli	
Greg Lewis	Rosalind Pegram	
Gil Palmer	Rhea Baker-Ipek	
Ian Kohen	Tony McClendon	
Trena Carter		
John Roberts		
John Stroh		

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Lorraine Smith, Deputy Director Frances Jordan

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Secretary Roberts called roll and presented the December 2011 Minutes for approval.

Commissioner Stroh moved that the December minutes be approved as presented. Commissioner Carter seconded. December Minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Carter reported \$10,732.95 as the Donations Account beginning balance; no activity.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director noted that the office continues to remain busy. Director Smith updated the Commissioners on the following:

CASEWORK: Two mediations were scheduled for February, but they were suspended per the instructions of the Complainants as a result of EEOC's pursuit of the investigations. Another mediation is scheduled for March 13 – racial harassment in employment. Two intakes conducted. Staff provided technical assistance on a transsexual issue in employment.

COMMISSIONER REAPPOINTMENTS: Scheduled for March 6th City Council Meeting. Commissioners up for reappointment: Greg Lewis, Andre Marak, John Stroh, and Tony McClendon are up for reappointment.

OTHER ACTIVITIES – Networking with the Community/Educating the Community: Director Smith attended the IUPUC Department of Education Board of Advisors Meeting on January 27. Deputy

Director Jordan, Chairperson Palmer and Director Smith attended the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on February 1.

On February 1, Mayor Brown met with Tom Harmon, representing CAMEO, Frank Griffin representing the NAACP Ministerial Alliance, Gwen Wiggins-President of the NAACP, Gil Palmer-Chair of CHRC, Frances Jordan CHRC Deputy Director and Director Smith. The meeting was a very productive and upon the suggestion of Mayor Brown, the group agreed to meet on a monthly basis.

On February 7, Chairperson Palmer, Vice-Chair Lewis and Director Smith met with Council Liaison Aaron Hankins to provide him with an orientation and welcome him to the Commission as our Liaison.

Deputy Director Jordan and Director Smith attended the CAMEO general membership meeting on February 8. The African American Association was the host culture – Deputy Director Jordan provided a presentation on the Tuskegee Airmen; she and Director Smith provided food representative of African American culture. Mayor Brown was in attendance. The meeting was very well attended.

Director Smith conducted the HFBC Outreach Committee meeting on February 10.

Director Smith had several meetings on a proposed Community Portal which is part of the Welcoming Community Survey results and recommendations.

February 14 Director Smith conducted a "Community Spotlight" interview for Q-Mix.

Director Smith presented with the Mayor to the local disability advocates group SAT/AKtion group/The Arc (The Association of Retarded Citizens) on February 23rd.

OFFICE/CITY HALL: February 27 City Hall Open House well attended. Director Smith thanked Commissioners who were able to attend. She thanked staff for preparing the office for the community visit.

Mayor Brown also attended the February NAACP meeting.

UPCOMING: Director Smith will be meeting with the newly assigned attorney to the Commission, Jeffrey Logston on March 1. Director Smith will attend a meeting as Chair of the HFBC Outreach Committee, along with Tracy Souza, and Lyn Morgan with representatives from Pride Alliance and Inclusive Community Coalition.

March 6 - Meeting with Mayor Brown, Chris Price, Lyn Morgan and Brent Engle, the City's IT Executive on a proposed Community Portal.

FOR ACTION:

Elections:

Commissioners cast their ballot for the officers for the 2012/2013 term. Commissioner Lewis reminded commissioners that it was not too late if newer commissioners wanted to express interest in leadership roles. No new nominations were presented.

Deputy Director Jordan collected and counted the ballots. She announced unanimous votes for Chairman Gil Palmer, Vice-Chairperson Greg Lewis, Secretary John Roberts, and Treasurer Trena Carter.

Commissioner Stroh moved to accept the elections results, and Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

The second action item was moved until after the presentation by the guest Serena Li.

EDUCATIONAL SEGMENT:

North High School Senior Serena Li presented her senior project to the Commission. Several questions were asked by the Commissioners and Director Smith. Commissioner Roberts requested that Serena make a presentation at Ivy Tech and Serena agreed. Serena also agreed to provide the Commission with a copy of her presentation for the Commission's library.

FOR ACTION (Cont'd):

Laws Nominations:

The commissioners were presented with the 2012nominations submitted to the Commission. The commissioners tabled this item until the next meeting until they could review more information. Director Smith recommended creating a Laws Nomination Committee as they have done in the past. Commissioner Marak, Kohen, and Lewis volunteered to make up this committee. Deputy Director Jordan agreed to compile and send the information to the Laws Nominations Committee.

LIAISON REPORTS:

There were no official reports. Commissioner Lewis noted that Commissioner Baker-Ipek, who is the new liaison to Interfaith Forum, has introduced herself to the group and he believes that she will be great as the new CHRC liaison to this organization.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Roberts moved that the meeting be adjourned at 5:45 pm. Commissioner Stroh seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.